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## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LANSING, MICHIGAN

**JOHN ESPINOZA**

COMMITTEES:  
VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
MINORITY VICE-CHAIR  
CONSERVATION

November 1, 2005

Honorable William Van Regenmorter  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
N1093 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Van Regenmorter,

I am pleased that a hearing is being held today on anti-torture legislation. I am writing to encourage the Judiciary Committee to move swiftly on this legislation, out of respect for torture victims, law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

The people who are tortured at the hands of sick and sadistic criminals deserve justice. We must give our public safety officers and prosecutors the legal tools they need to prosecute such criminals and put them behind bars for the rest of their lives.

The gruesome case that propelled me to introduce anti-torture legislation in July is the same case that inspired this legislation. I introduced two anti-torture bills after learning that Huron County prosecutors were frustrated that a man accused of torturing his blind, diabetic wife could not be charged under an anti-torture statute because no such law exists in Michigan. Prosecutors were unable to charge 43-year-old Stephen Cline with attempted murder only because the suspect – a trained paramedic – videotaped himself reviving his wife each time after bringing her to the brink of death. Cline was charged with one count of kidnapping and 17 counts of first-degree abuse of a vulnerable adult for allegedly asphyxiating his wife for his own sexual gratification.

Criminals who torture others for their own sick pleasure deserve prison time. We need to send a clear message that torturing other people for pleasure is unacceptable.

I call upon this committee to move tough legislation that will put these criminals behind bars for life and keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Representative John Espinoza  
83<sup>rd</sup> District